

To: William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

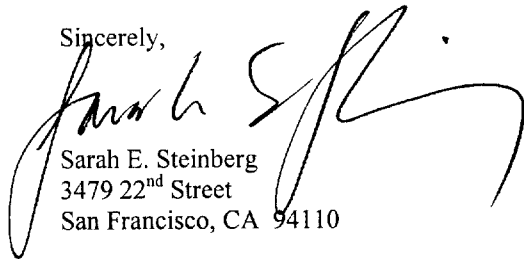
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Re: Docket No. 98N-1038
Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

As a concerned American citizen, I believe that the irradiation of food is harmful, both to workers in the food industry and to consumers. I hope that our country can move away from large-scale commercial agriculture and toward the consumption of locally-grown fresh produce. In the meantime, as long as food is being irradiated during production, processing, and handling procedures, I believe that such food must be clearly labeled. I believe labeling should consist of a statement that the product has been irradiated and the international symbol for irradiated food. This labeling should be prominently placed for any consumer to see. I can imagine resistance to such labeling might stem from a concern that consumers will reject products with a frightening label. However, I think that if we all know that most American consumers would reject food that has been irradiated if they knew of it, we should listen to this voice. Leaving irradiated food unlabeled may have short term economic advantages—unlabeled, the food in question sells. But in the long term, the production and consumption of irradiated food will have harmful consequences. Let us all plan for the long term health of our bodies, our land, and our planet.

Sincerely,



Sarah E. Steinberg
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